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THE ROMULUS ROMAN

Vol. 118, No. 50

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Plant workers continue tradition of giving

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The Scene



Try to escape from The Holiday

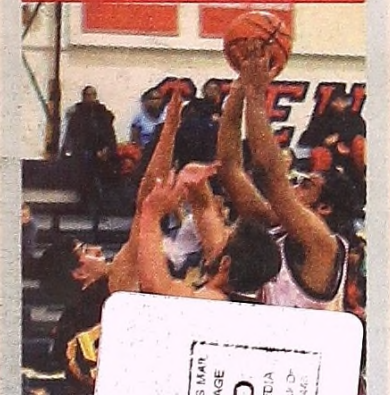
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Noted author speaks at local college

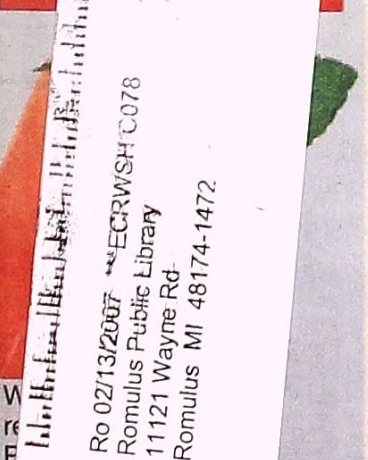
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Sports



New split

Food



City pushes for casino approvals

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus officials are sending a message to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs: Hurry up.

That's because with the looming prospect of automotive buyouts, layoffs and the general condition of the state economy, the greater Wayne County area will need the 2,500 jobs a casino in Romulus is expected to bring.

"We know that there's going to be a lot of people that are going to want to be trained for other jobs once the buyouts are done, and we'll need some jobs for them," said Mayor Alan Lambert.

The city of Romulus and the Hannahville Indian Tribe of Petosky, Mich., inked an agreement in 2005 to construct a casino on a vacant parcel of land on Vining Road near

Interstate 94. The casino is expected to bring anywhere from \$6 million to \$10 million in revenue to the city.

It's all for naught if people from the community who once worked for the automakers can't tap into the jobs a casino would provide, Lambert said.

"In 2007 there's going to be so many people looking for work," he said. "We're really starting to push harder for the federal approvals. We need them to understand what's happening in this region."

To get to the point where ground can be broken for the casino, the federal government must approve the agreement the city has with the Hannahville Indian Community. That generally takes a long time, Lambert said.

Nedra Darling, a spokeswoman for the

U.S. Department of Indian Affairs, which is under the umbrella of the U.S. Department of the Interior, did return calls seeking comment by press time Tuesday.

Romulus is home to the General Motors Powertrain Engine Plant on Ecorse Road. Company statements indicate that up to 800 members of the United Automotive Workers (UAW) could accept any number of buyout plans offered by the company.

If many of those individuals live in the city or the surrounding areas, it could impact the city's housing market if they cannot find new work and are forced to leave Michigan, Lambert said.

"We are building new homes, and I do think we'll be able to get past this in terms of

See **Casinos**, page 3

Wilson accepts public works director spot

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

The long-vacant position of Department of Public Works director has been filled – and the new occupant is not that far away.

Tom Wilson – the current public works czar for the city of Westland – will retire from that position effective Dec. 15, and will join the city of Romulus shortly thereafter.

The Romulus position has been filled by deputy director Richard Suiter since late last year, when Carl Brooks retired.

The position will pay Wilson \$70,169 per year, said Debra Hoffman, the director of finance in Romulus.

Wilson – who was recruited by the City of Romulus for several months – brings a wealth of experience to the community, said Mayor Alan Lambert.

"It's clear that he had a lot of knowledge about how a department like this is supposed to run," he said. "We spoke with the mayor of Westland and some other people, and we decided he was right for the position. He ran a larger department in Westland – I think they have about 90 people and we have about 60. We're just lucky we

could get him."

Suiter has also retired, and a deputy director will be named sometime next week, Lambert said.

Wilson first joined the city of Westland in 1983 as a mechanic for the motor pool division, where he repaired fleet and public safety vehicles. A licensed master mechanic at the time, he remained in the motor pool for about seven years before he decided to try something new.

"I wanted to broaden my horizons a bit," said Wilson, 50.

He switched to the Water Department in 1990 and served as a laborer. Once there, he quickly rose through the ranks. He went from heavy equipment operator to crew leader and then, in 1997, to foreman in the Water Department. He has served as director of the Westland Department of Public Service since his appointment five years ago.

Wilson announced that he would leave Westland at the Monday, Dec. 5 council meeting in that city.

According to Wilson, his experiences working in Westland have

See **Wilson**, page 3



Big Prizes

15-year-old Jemeliah Todd, a sophomore at Romulus High School, took home a large trophy and other great prizes when she walked away with the Miss Junior Teen Detroit competition in Detroit recently. Todd won \$7,000 in prizes for her achievement and will compete in the Cities of America competition in Orlando, Fla., in 2007.

Suspects could close decades-old juvenile sex cases

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A bizarre exchange between an assistant Wayne County Prosecutor and one of the men accused of molesting 12 boys in Detroit and Romulus nearly 30

years ago played out at the 34th District Court Tuesday.

Richard MacRae Lawson, who was charged with nine counts of child molestation, accused the government of concealing undercover work he performed for them in the 1970s and

1980s, and asked Judge David Parrott if he could represent himself in court.

Lawson, 60, is a convicted murderer serving a life sentence at the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility at Jackson. He was transported to Romulus

by corrections officials to face the sex charges. Also facing charges is Theodore Lamborgine of Parma Heights, Ohio, who is facing two counts of second-degree molestation of victims older than

See **Accused**, page 3

Student testing set for March

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Belleville High School students—with the exception of the 11th grade—will get an extra day of vacation due to recent changes for administering the state Merit Exam.

Van Buren Public School Board members approved the schedule change recently to accommodate the testing. The test will be administered in March to replace the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) exam. It will provide students with a regular ACT score that they can use to apply to colleges and to qualify for the Michigan Merit Award scholarship. The exam includes the ACT, WorkKeys and tests in math, science and social students.

It will be given in three parts with students taking the ACT portion on March 13, while the WorkKeys, math, science and social studies tests will be given on March 14 during two sessions.

Highly restrictive test conditions necessitate having only the 11th grade students attend on March 13 for the MME/ACT portion of the merit exam, according to Ray Gross, director of instruction for the school district.

"It will take about 50-60 percent of the staff to administer the test," he said. "Plus, PA systems and alarms have to be off along with other special instructions. The only way to successfully give the test is to have only 11th grade here students on that day."

Principal Sheila Brown said school officials tried to figure out a way to operate school as usual.

"We thought maybe having classes on the lower level then testing on the upper level, but looking at it the teachers will be so incommoded so we're asking only juniors that day," she said. "Next year, it could be built into the calendar, but ACT won't tell us when it is."

Deb Cooper, merit exam test coordinator for the high school, said other issue they were facing was space.

"The students have to be a certain width apart, have a certain amount of square-footage and other things during testing," she said. "The other alternative would have been off-site testing which is expensive for the district."

Gross said that with the amount of time and energy being put into this, the school district is ultimately paying, anyways.

"The state has decided to do this now and right now without giving us time to gear-up for it," he said. "They seem to be uncaring about the burden it's putting on school districts. It's foolish."

The test will take about 5 hours, which could easily turn into 10 hours the next time around, Gross said.

The passing level of the merit exam is equal to the MEAP to help the transition from the former test to the new exam. It will also be revised in future years to align with the new Michigan high school graduation requirements, according to the Michigan Department of Education.

Parents will also be notified of the school calendar change. For more information, contact (734) 697-9123.

Employees honored for years of service

Several Van Buren Township employees were honored recently for their many years of service in the community.

The township awards long-time employees annually and this year they include: Mario Pinard, a water worker, who has worked 20 years in the township; Jeffery Fondaw, a department of public services leader, who has been with the township for 20 years; Pam Fleming, who has

worked 15 years; David McNally, a firefighter for 15 years with the township; Roy Schroeder, a police officer for 15 years with the township; Charles Bazy, a police sergeant, has been with the township for 15 years; Jennifer Price, an account clerk, has worked 10 years; David Tozer, a firefighter for 10 years in the township; James Ferris, a firefighter for 10 years; Angela Hayes, a firefighter for 10

years; Robert Martin, a dispatcher for 10 years; Christopher Hayes, a police officer for 10 years; Christopher Valinski, a police officer for 5 years; Jennifer Parker, an account clerk for 5 years; Bryce Kelley, the director of economic development, has been with the township for 5 years and John Henderson, a firefighter, has worked in Van Buren Township for 5 years.

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FR/SAT LS 11:15
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30
APOCALYPTO (R) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) 11:15, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15
FR/SAT LS 11:15
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) 4:10, 9:10
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5-year-old Madolyn Frederick stand in the hall of Barth Elementary School with lunch aid Lisa Hollis, who recently saved her from choking.

Aide puts lifesaving skills to work

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

A kindergartner at Barth Elementary School is lucky educators at the school follow a mantra used by the Boy Scouts: Always be prepared.

Madolyn Frederick, 5, was eating her lunch at the school when a piece of food suddenly lodged in her throat. Lisa Hollis, a Romulus bus driver who also serves as a lunch aide at the school, noticed the girl walking down the hall, waving her arms and struggling to breathe.

Hollis, who is trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), knew immediately what was happening. Frederick was choking.

Training to deal with choking victims is an increasingly useful skill in schools. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), choking is the leading cause of death among small children. The younger the child, the more likely it is that the youngster could choke, according to the CDC.

Many times, the estimated 2,800 children that die each year due to choking do so because they have stuck an inanimate object in their mouth, but many times choking occurs because of a tendency not to chew food adequately and by consuming meals too quickly.

Hollis, however, was able to help Frederick using a method called the Heimlich Maneuver, which is performed by applying pressure to a person's mid-section to dislodge food trapped in their airway.

Performing the maneuver successfully means the person can once again breathe normally.

Hollis said she's pleased to put her skills to good use.

"I was glad to help out because Madolyn was in a lot of trouble that day," she said.

Hollis earned her CPR training through a co-op program at the Special Tree Nursing Home in Romulus and honed her skills during three years of post-graduate nurse training. She maintains her CPR certification, and also

works at the Romulus Recreation Department during the summer.

Suzie Frederick, Madolyn's mother, was on site that day, and was glad Lisa could help.

"I was really afraid of what was happening to my daughter," she said. Then I saw Lisa coming and I asked her to help out. It took Lisa three more times of the Heimlich Maneuver before the hard candy came out."

Romulus Community Schools spokesman Dick Kruse said he's glad someone was at Barth to help the family and the district avert a tragedy.

"We are very fortunate to have someone like Lisa with extensive CPR training on our staff," he said.

Hollis has worked for the district for five years, and said she will use her training any time she sees a child in trouble.

Said Suzie Frederick: "Lisa was really great, and I appreciate everything she did for Madolyn. She saved her life and it's the best Christmas present we could ever have."

Librarian's roots began in Romulus

Scott Spielman
Editor

For Lois VanStipdonk, her impending departure is starting to register.

The director of the Wayne Public Library is retiring at the month, leaving a building that she helped design and nurture into a cutting edge public facility.

"I think the hardest part will be when I actually walk out the door," said the Wayne resident.

VanStipdonk worked in several locations before she came to the Wayne community in 1994. The library was still located in what is now the Senior Activity Center, then, and the move was under way to plan its current facility.

"It was an amazing learning experience," she said.

A neighbor helped her—inadvertently—get into the library field. VanStipdonk had three kids at home at the time and said she advised a neighbor to get a job at the library. Her friend found out she couldn't because she didn't have a bachelor's degree. VanStipdonk did and decided to apply. The next thing she knew she was testing for the spot—along with a crowd of other hopefuls.

"There must've been 400 people that went downtown to take the test," she said.

She was subsequently hired at the Romulus Public Library, where she worked part-time as a library aide.

"Then I decided it would be a good idea if I had a better idea of what I was doing," she joked.

She enrolled in the library program at the University of Michigan and pursued further education in library sciences—going to college at the same time as one of her sons.

Her education took her to the role of children's librarian in Romulus. She later worked as an assistant to the director of the Wayne County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and from there as the director of the library in Dearborn Heights. She held that position until she came to Wayne.

Her decision to leave came not because she was tired of her job, but because she wanted to spend more time with her family. Her husband, John, has been retired for four years and she said they want to do a little more traveling.

"I'm going to travel around and drive my kids crazy," she said.

Accused

FROM PAGE 1

13 years old and younger than 16.

Lawson, clad in blue and orange prison garb and holding a binder, accused the government of inventing the charges because he transported illegal immigrants across the border.

"This is a sham," he said.

The prisoner also said he's being denied health care in prison, and that he has prostate cancer.

Lawson later requested an audience with news reporters who were in the courthouse to cover his arraignment; Parrott denied that request. Lawson also said he was being mistreated in prison. Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Robert Moran called Lawson's comments inappropriate.

"He's here to answer charges that he molested eight people," he said. "If he has health issues, I ask that his file be marked so that so he can get treatment. But I want him to be able to face a jury on these charges."

Information obtained by police investigators that Lawson and Lamborgine molested the teenage boys at the Knights of K on Wickham Road in Romulus in 1980 was unearthed as part of a multi-agency probe connected to the Oakland County Child Killer case.

That case, in which two boys and two girls were killed in the southernmost section of Oakland County, has remained unsolved for 30 years.

Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy has said publicly that the Lamborgine, who is 65, was a suspect in the case. She added that the men allegedly lured young men into the Cass Corridor in the late 1970s for sex by plying them with soda pop and sometimes drugs.

Romulus is not the only city where one of the defendants is facing charges. Lamborgine was arraigned on 15 felony sex charges in Detroit and Southgate.

Lamborgine, who is incarcerated at the Wayne County Jail on the Southgate and Detroit charges, nodded that he understood the charges against him. Parrott ordered him held in jail in lieu of \$500,000 cash bond. A not guilty plea was entered on his behalf.

Parrott ordered a public defender be assigned to Lawson for the pre-trial examination to explain "some of the consequences of representing yourself." The question of bond was moot because Lawson is already in the custody of the Michigan Department of Corrections.

Moran said little to the media after the men were charged, but indicated that more information about the charges against the men would be clear when they return to court for a preliminary examination. He also said he wished he could make a statement about the claims made by Lawson about the government.

"We'll address all of that in the pre-exam," he said.

The men will return to the 34th District Court for the exam at 9 a.m. on Dec. 20.

Wilson

FROM PAGE 1

been overwhelmingly positive.

"The City of Westland has treated me well throughout my career," he said. "It was a difficult decision. I'm leaving with kind of a heavy heart."

However, he said the opportunity to accept new challenges and gain new experiences ultimately

convinced him to move on. He added that he is looking forward to utilizing what he has learned throughout the years to improve the Romulus department. He accepted the position only hours before the meeting on Monday.

"He has had some very innovative ideas," said Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli. "He's going to be missed."

Lambert said several things stood out about Wilson's experience. Among his achievements

include obtaining federal support to rid Westland of all of all trees infected with the emerald ash borer disease.

In Romulus, Wilson will oversee a several employees and, a water and sewer fund of \$11 million, and a road and motor vehicle fund that equals another \$4 million.

Wilson will officially assume control of the department on Dec. 18.

Staff Writer Molly Tippen contributed to this report.

working so hard getting the race-track and casino on line, though."

The city announced it plans to pursue an agreement with the tribe in October 2005.

A horseracing track will be constructed near the proposed

casino once if it can surmount legal challenges working their way through the courts. A 200-room hotel with restaurants and stores will also be built as part of the deal. Estimates indicate that about 3,300 gaming-related jobs could be created.

Casinos

FROM PAGE 1

housing. . . I think this will eventually work itself out," he said. "That is one of the reasons we're

OPINION

Pressure is needed

There's a familiar refrain going on right now in Romulus: hurry up and wait.

Officials there pounced on an opportunity to bring in a casino and horse racing facility when they were approached about the issue. It was the right thing to do—it brings in revenue at a time when most municipalities are losing it and jobs at a time when most companies are shedding payroll. They did it the right way, too, going in front of the people for a vote to seek approval to allow the gaming uses in the community.

Not much has happened since then. The deal is still awaiting federal approvals.

Citing recent bad economic news—additional layoffs and buyouts announced by Detroit automakers—officials in Romulus has started to press for quicker approvals at the federal level.

It's a good thing to do. Even with a speedy approval process—which is itself a strange phrase, considering this is something that got under way more than a year ago—it'll still take time for the project to take shape.

This is another familiar refrain: if local officials sit around and wait for federal approvals, there's no telling how long things would take.

Constructing a gambling facility is always going to be a tricky thing. There are a number of issues that have to be taken into account that aren't required in other, more common developments. It's important for every 'I' to be dotted and 'T' to be crossed so that, when the project lines up, it doesn't all come out lemons.

Even so, there should be some kind of expedited process that can help these kinds of lingering projects along, once the locals have all signed off on it.

They will feel the burden more immediately than anyone in the federal government. They will receive the greater benefit, too.

At a time when the economy is lagging and municipal leaders are looking for ways to bolster their revenue stream so they can continue to provide services to their residents, they shouldn't have to wait on the federal government. Particularly when the locals have been on the right track, all along.

Fundraisers inspire in difficult times

It's always encouraging at this time of year when the tallies of various fundraisers throughout western Wayne County start coming in.

Every year, recently, it seems to follow the same pattern. The initial request for donations is filled with concern that more people will need more help this time around and a nod at the economy that implies that fewer and fewer people will be able to help out.

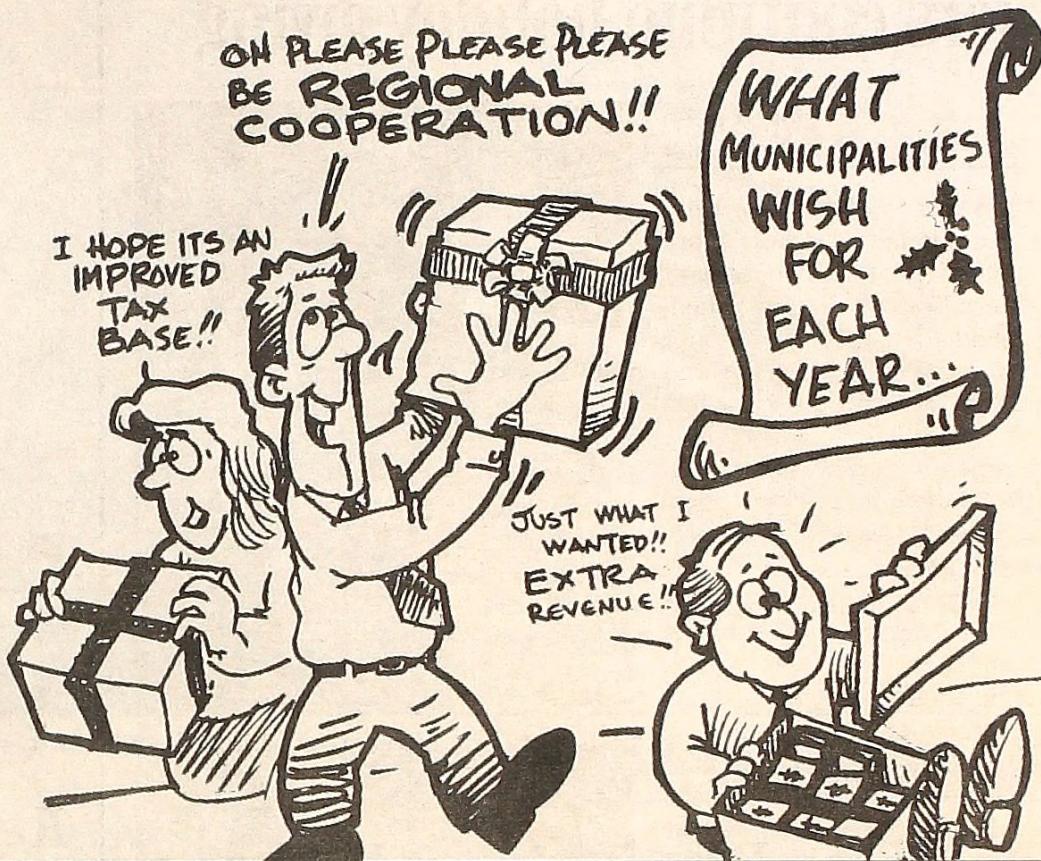
This year was the same, as news of plant closings and layoffs dominated headlines, along with forecasts from economists that said next year wouldn't be much better and may be even worse.

Even so, a number of groups stepped up to the plate. And so did the residents of western Wayne County.

Members of organizations like The Goodfellows, which are active in virtually every community within a 30-mile radius, may not have brought in as much money as they have in the past, but they acknowledge that they still brought in more than they thought they would. At factories like the GM Powertrain plant in Romulus, toys still lined the walls for the Toys for Tots program. Boxes for the Marine Corps initiative were seen in many places throughout the county, most of them at least half-filled with new, unwrapped toys.

In Wayne—where officials at Ford Motor Company recently

See Fundraisers, page 5



Will Christmas wishes come true?

It's sometimes hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us, given the near balmy temperatures we've experienced lately.

Here it is, though, weeks away, and I have yet to start my Christmas shopping. Shopping for my friends and family will be hard enough—I've only got so many bottles to return—but when you factor in what I would get for the various municipalities in western Wayne County, well, it becomes a very difficult task.

True, I'm no Santa Claus, but if I were, here's what I'd bring to some of the communities in our coverage area.

Wayne

Wayne will need a drive-through valium dispenser next year to keep all the drivers on Michigan Avenue calm.

The road will be torn up for most of the year in a major reconstruction project and there's nothing like slow moving traffic on an otherwise fast road to

fuel incidents of road rage. On the other hand, it could help places like Lia & TJs donut shop; people will be able to navigate through the drive-thru lane without missing their place on Michigan Avenue.

I'd bring a boatload of money to the volunteers trying to restore the Historic Wayne Theatre, too. The once-prominent structure would be a major boon for the downtown area, if this coup could be pulled off.

Organizers of the effort have guess that it would cost \$4.5 million, though, and that's a tough peak to climb.

I would, of course, keep a little funding off to the side to help fund the Wheelfest, too. Organizers of the annual festival are facing a fundraiser effort, too, to keep it the staple of the community that it always has been.

See Wishes, page 5

Creditors take no sick days

On the Today Show recently, one of the correspondents covered a story about employees going to work sick. While the report was well presented, it missed the big picture.

Folks aren't going to work sick because it's noble to show up to perform even if you do not feel your best. People are going to work sick because they have no choice.

Somewhere in our area is a person with a terrible sore throat and a 100-degree temperature. Their chest hurts with every cough and mucus spews with every sneeze. Instead of taking some medicine and curling up in bed, this obviously sick person will report to their cubicle or station to spend an 8-hour portion of their day.

In a utopia, a person who is sick would have enough time as possible to become well before rejoining the work force. However, with one of the most stagnant economies in the Union and many state residents feeling blessed even to have a minimum wage job, the call for rest and medicine goes unheeded as the demands of money for groceries, utilities and housing are answered.

A missed day of pay for some local families is not an option. Of course local employees have pride in their performance and want the shops, restaurants and plants that provide their income to prosper. But, we are being disingenuous if we believe pride and dedication are the only reason people trade in their pajamas for their uniform and clock-in.

While the situation is a little different for

salaried employees since they typically have a little more wiggle room in regards to sick days, they still have obstacles.

Children get sick and many parents use their sick days to stay at home with their child even though they are not sick. That is certainly understandable but germs spread and parent caregivers oftentimes get sick from their youngsters.

With no sick days left, the administrative assistant, communication director or office manager is forced to drag their fever and throat issues to work just like the person who works at the local fast food restaurant.

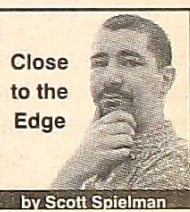
I contacted a several businesses in Plymouth and Plymouth Township and spoke to a human resource manager; they all told me sick employees should stay home and come back after the illness has subsided. From their perspective, it's easy to understand why.

One bout of the flu, for instance, can spread throughout the company causing everyone from the janitor to the chief executive officer to be sick, unproductive and miss work.

In their eyes it's an unnecessary burden that can cost the company customers as well as money.

Then again it's also easy to understand the plight of the employee who raising three children alone. Sick or not sick, she needs her pay.

Something to think about the next time the person across from your desk coughs.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman



Lester at large

by Lester Holmes

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The Journal Newspapers are published Thursdays
at 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan, 48184.
Central office hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Toys For Tots

Workers continue holiday giving

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Although weakened demand for vehicles, layoffs, buyouts and sluggish sales are on the minds of the 1,200 workers at General Motors Romulus Engine Plant, employees found it in their hearts to once again donate more than 500 bikes and other toys to the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program.

At a reception at the plant last Thursday, Rick Sutton, the general manager of the Romulus facility, said helping others is still a priority.

“It’s a privilege to help those that are less fortunate,” he said. “I think it speaks volumes about the workers here – that they’re so willing to give to others.”

The Toys for Tots drive at the plant is a joint two-week venture between GM management and the United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 163. The workers – who had to move the date of the presentation up a week because the plant is going to be idled a week early – gave money and donated toys, which will be distributed throughout the communities of Wayne, Romulus, Belleville and Van Buren Township.

This year, workers raised about \$20,000. It’s less than last year, but that was more or less expected, said Mark Corrion, a UAW representative who helped coordinate the effort.

“It’s because of what’s happening here; there’s been a lot of uncertainty,” he said. “That, and we knew that the plant was going to close a week early. But I still think we did well.”

Michael Greene, a retired Marine and coordinator of the Toys for Tots program, said corporate support from companies like GM helps make Christmas a little brighter during tough times.

“There’s a lot of people who are out of work and need a helping hand,” he said.

Greene also said he understands the ups and downs autoworkers are currently experiencing.

“I worked at the Willow Run facility years ago,” he said. “It can be tough. We do this every year, though, and I feel a kinship with these workers.”

Each year, families from the communi-



Eight-year-old Carlvel Hudgens of Romulus went to the Toys for Tots reception at the GM Powertrain Plant on Ecorse Road Thursday.

ties served by the Romulus Toys for Tots organization are invited to the reception for treats and a personal meeting with Santa Claus. Each child leaves with a bicycle and a toy.

“We focus so much on bicycles because they’re expensive and it’s not something every child has,” said Brenetta McGee, a UAW representative who helped plan the event.

The Marines have worked to bring other volunteers into the effort, Greene said. The Robichaud High School ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) again volunteered to load the toys in a truck, which will transport them to a central location where they can be matched to needy children.

The spirit of giving is not lost on Carlvel Hudgens, who is 8 years old.

He was having a blast at the reception, and was pleased with his choice of a toy – a purple and green toy dinosaur that converts into a tank.

“I’m having a lot of fun,” he said. “This is really cool.”

these efforts successful. The ones that take a moment to pick up a gift for someone they’ll never meet. The ones who pause at a traffic light to slip a dollar bill into donation-filled milk carton. The ones who willingly pay to much at any number of auctions, knowing that the money they spend is more important than the gift they keep.

Even if the doom and gloom passed down proves true and 2007 is another difficult year for most of us, we’re still confident that we’ll pull through. Volunteer groups like these have a strong history of helping out, after all. Good job, one and all.

sors, too. Wild will most likely take over for Mayor Sandra Cicirelli when she assumes the bench at the beginning of the year. Wild will most likely do a good job in the role but his first few weeks—with the park issue and the appointment of two people to the council—may be a bit rocky. I’d also give this cadre of advisors a little note to slip to the other members of the council to make his appointment unanimous. There’s no reason starting the new year off with acrimony, is there?

These are a few of the presents I would gift wrap, if I were able. Of course, I’m always curious to learn about yours.

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THE SCENE



the Holiday

Audiences will want to 'get away' from this movie

Early in *the Holiday*, a work-obsessed Amanda praises her colleagues for their good work piecing together a new film preview. "It looks like a hit!" she exclaims. If only Amanda could assemble her life to look so appealing. Yes, she's beautiful and rich and owns her own company, but she lives in Los Angeles and has all those romance-killing Los Angeles tendencies.

Yes, if only Amanda, as portrayed by Cameron Diaz, could package her life to resemble something as enjoyable as that movie trailer. And if only *the Holiday* could have been as entertaining as it's own trailer instead of stretching a simple story into a clunky, overlong, sap-fest.

One might expect a certain level of sugar to coat a romantic comedy by writer-director Nancy Myers, who also gave us *Something's Gotta Give*, *What Women Want*, and *Father of the Bride*, to name a few. But *the Holiday* goes above and beyond, eliminating pretty much all conflict during the 120 minutes. It's pretty apparent that all four leads are really nice people. The women have flaws, sure, but they are loveable, nutty flaws. It's funny that Amanda hasn't cried since she was 15 and her parents divorced. It's funny that Iris, a British reporter played by Kate Winslet, is still broken-hearted three years after an office romance ended with a man able to still keep her on a string as "You're my survival kit."

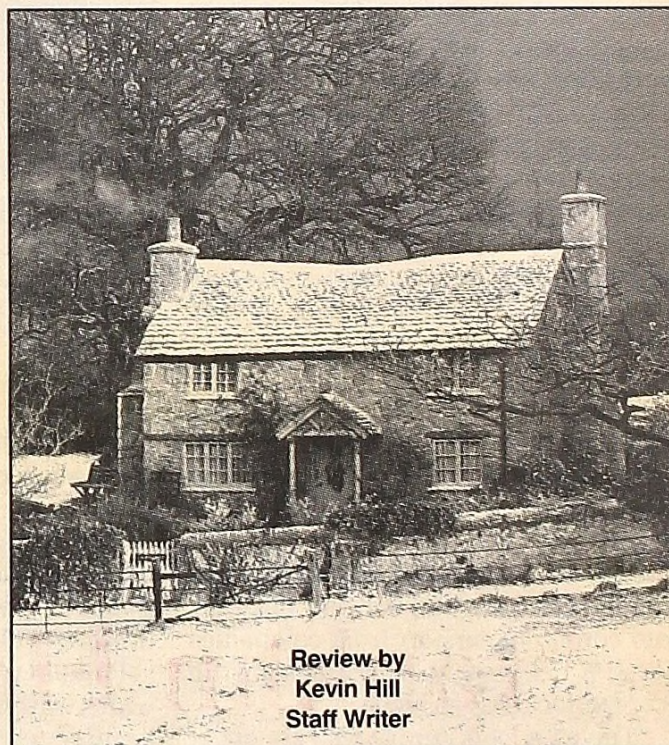
After dumping her boyfriend, Amanda needs a vaca-

tion. She finds Iris' house listed on the Internet for a house exchange and, on a whim, the two agree to leave behind their lives for two weeks. Amanda quickly starts to think she made a bad choice isolating herself in a strange cottage at Christmas. Iris is more suited to Amanda's large L.A. spread, and watching Kate Winslet leap around screaming giddily over a rather large DVD collection is the first hint something is wrong here.

Then there're the men. Jude Law plays Iris' brother, Graham, who seduces the suddenly desperate Amanda late on her first night at the British cottage. Graham seems like he might be bad news for Amanda, but it's not very long before we learn he's actually a pretty nice guy and he's shooting gaga eyes with his new lover.

Then there's a whiff of a flaw, perhaps even a dirty secret, but nope—we find he's really a fantastic person. He reads books, he cries at movies and so much more that I can't reveal lest I anger potential women viewers.

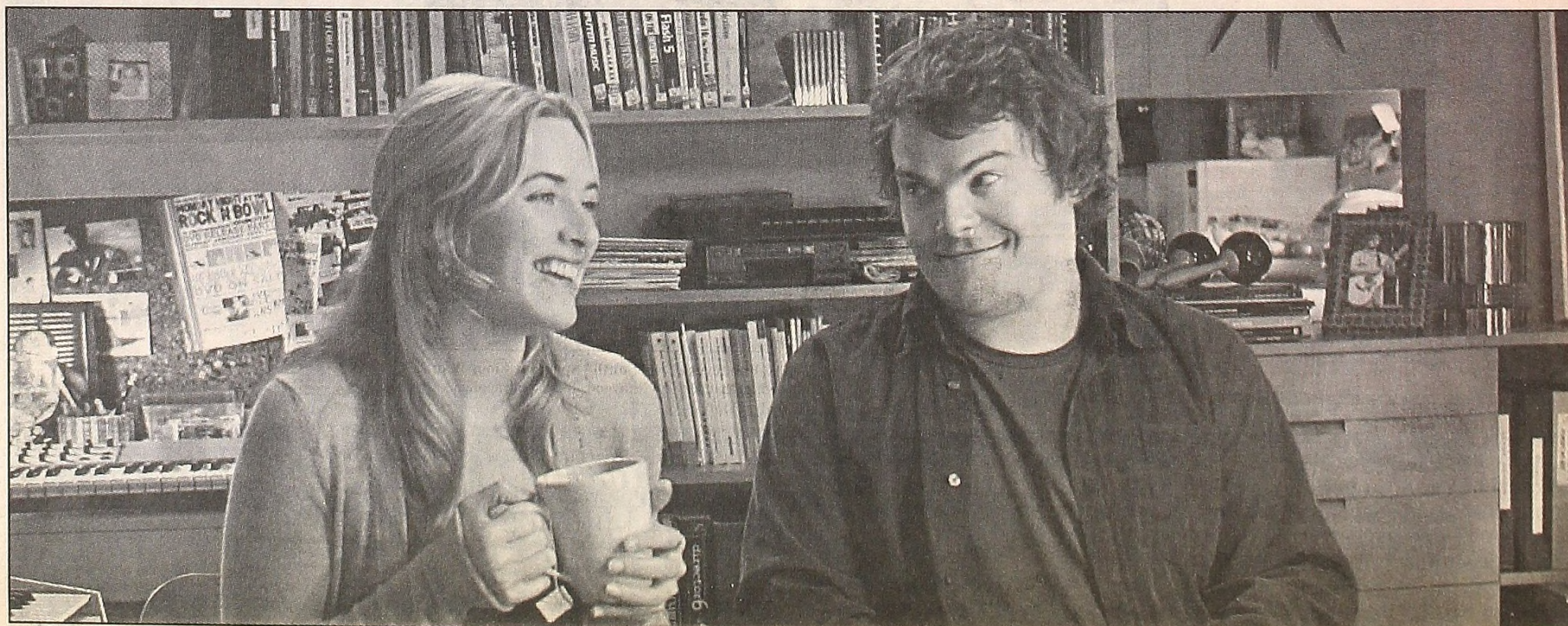
Jack Black plays Miles, a film composer also in touch with his softer side. Black is trying hard here to adapt his wild-eyed persona to a toned-down style of comedy. It's charming in some places, but his character isn't really given a great deal of consideration by Myers. That's a shame, since he's the most interesting actor here, and he and Winslet have far more chemistry than Law and Diaz during their smaller share of screen time.



Review by
Kevin Hill
Staff Writer

It's evident that this movie is meant to be a distraction from our own stressful holiday seasons. But there are better places to escape to. Myers doesn't even take the opportunity to show us much of either the coast or the countryside. There are some funny moments, the best of which was a telephone gag in the middle of the film.

In all though, it was disheartening to see Myers, queen of the "chick flick," give us such pathetic women to root for in this effort. Sure, they have a chance at redemption—thanks to some funny, charming, well-dressed and soft-spoken studs that exist entirely within her imagination. Myers' has a penchant for fantasy, but a better Christmas present would have been a woman capable of making a correct decision during those 120 minutes.



THE SCENE

On the Down Low

Noted author talks candidly about prevention of disease

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Best-selling author J.L. King's language may be raw, but his message is clear: HIV is preventable. All people have to do is take control of their lives.

"If we stop and look at decisions we make, HIV is preventable," King said. "Know your HIV status, always practice safe sex and never trust someone by just the way they look. Know their sexual history."

King understands that many people don't agree with the way he gets his message out, but his mission is to create healthier relationships because the chance of getting infected then decreases, he said.

"I'm very candid. I shock people and I might say things anyway," King said. "If I wasn't who I am, I'd be wasting their time. The bottom line is I'm here to talk about HIV prevention and what it's doing, particularly to the African-American community."

As part of World AIDS day, King lectured last week at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) western campus in Belleville. This was a first-time event for the campus and the last stop for King. He's toured more than 50 U.S. colleges.

According to Bonike Odegbami, execu-

tive vice president of the campus, it received a good response.

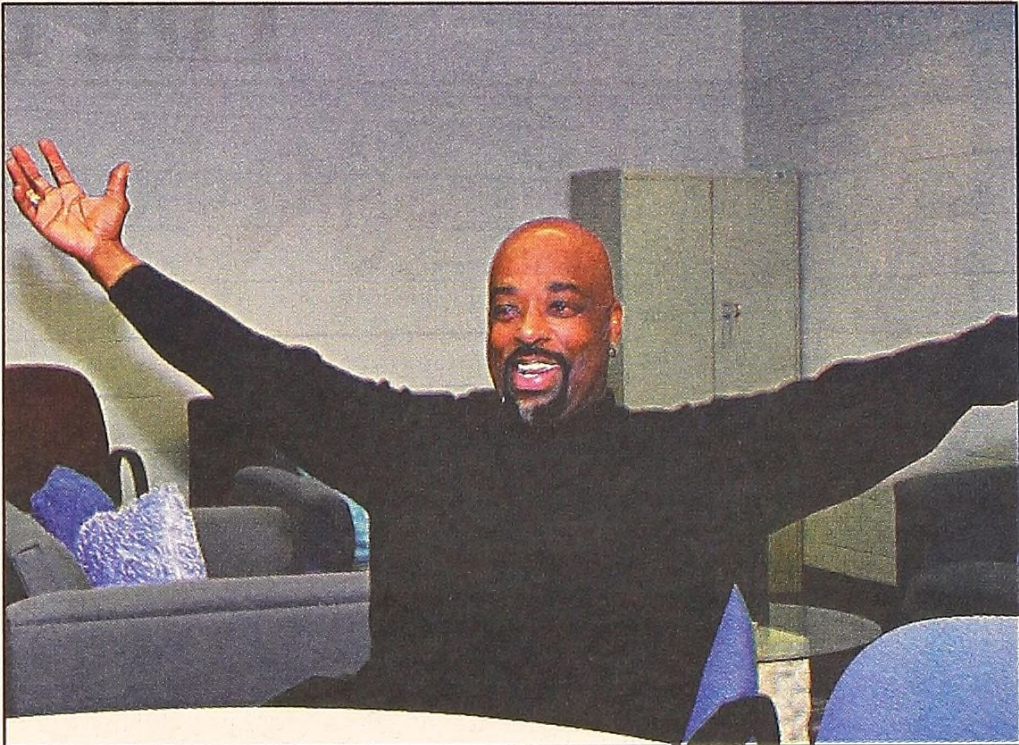
"We want to educate the community on the social responsibility of the issue. HIV knows no color or gender," she said. "When looking at the statistics in metro Detroit alone, HIV is on the rise. The college had an interest last year of hosting an event like this, but didn't have the resources until this year."

King, the New York Times best-selling author of *On the Down Low* and *Essence* best-seller of *Coming Up from the Down Low*, discussed the issue of HIV and AIDS in the community and how people can take action. He touched on his personal experiences of being in a heterosexual relationship while secretly maintaining homosexual relationships, as well as information about the lives of men on the 'down low' and its effect on HIV/AIDS.

"Whoever shows up to hear me speak is supposed to be here," he said. "I didn't ask to be this person, but I look back on those years and prayed to God and he told me to tell my story."

That's when King quit his high-paying job and traveled around telling people about living a double life.

"I wanted people to realize there are men who are living double lives and the numbers were scary for HIV in the African American community," he said. "I got a lot of angry mail and death threats, but I still



Best selling author and nationally known personality J.L. King lectured on taking responsibility for your life and preventing HIV at the Belleville campus of Wayne County Community College District last Friday.

get the message out.

"I'm accepting of who I am personally," King added. "I've learned to enjoy life and be honest with who I am because I don't want to grow up an old man living a lie. Life is short and you only get so much time."

For now, King is focused on promoting awareness and enlightenment on sexuality and relationships.

"In the African American community homosexuality is the greatest taboo. There could be an ax-murderer living in the community and people would be more accepting," he said. "That mentality is hurting the community more than helping."

"Someone once told me that if and when there's a cure to HIV/AIDS it's going

to be because of me. That's the greatest compliment I've ever received," King said.

King has also been cited in more than 100 national publications including *Jet*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *Sister to Sister Magazine*, *Ebony* and *People*. He has also been featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show, PBS, BET, CNN, the Discovery Network and more than 80 national news shows, as well as more than 1,000 websites.

Future plans include a new book, radio and TV shows, along with more colleges lectures and teaching college level courses, too, including one at the WCCCD, King said.

For more information about HIV/AIDS related topics, questions or upcoming events, visit www.jlking.net.

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SPORTS

New coach, Rockets split opening week

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The John Glenn Rockets have a new look and, so far, it looks good.

Although first-year Coach Dan Young hasn't tailored the perfect fit yet, he and his crew are off to a decent start. They split their first week with a home win against a strong Riverview squad last Tuesday in the season opener and a loss to a pretty tough North Farmington host on Friday.

Glenn has a stable group of experienced and new players to help steer the Rockets in the right direction this year.

The Rockets didn't have any notable losses from last year's relatively young roster. Five seniors graduated, but it was four underclassmen that carried the team through an up-and-down campaign. All are back, adding some much needed experience and firepower.

Returning seniors include 6-foot-3 Jackie Wilson, who offered eight points and eight rebounds in the team's 63-52 victory over Riverview. Rob Jones is back on the court for the Rockets. The 6-foot-3 senior was close to a double-double in the first outing, scoring nine and rebounding nine. Cordarryl Jones is back for

his final campaign, too.

Junior Earl Hardison is back in action. He scored 18 in the loss to North Farmington.

New faces in the varsity lineup this season include juniors Keshawn Martin, who led the team with 14 points last Tuesday; Stefan Marken, who added 13 against Riverview and 6-foot-8 Jordan Manier.

All were brought up from the JV squad late last year. Juniors Paul Estrada, Daris Smith, Charles Woodford and sophomores Austin Anderson and Dorian Prather will get their first taste of varsity play this year.

"They're great kids," Young said of the team as a whole. "They work hard and are showing some good chemistry already. They really want to have a good year.

"We have to stress defense and rebounding," he added. "Those two ingredients can help us win every night."

The biggest addition to the team might be Young himself. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program.

The Pioneer Middle School physical education teacher was an assistant coach at Central Michigan University and then at Western Michigan University. After that he made the change to

high school basketball as the head coach at Brighton for the 1993-94 season. He went 13-8 there and won the Kensington Valley Conference championship.

He went to Canton for the '94-95 season. He stayed for six years and won three league titles and two district crowns. After that he called it quits in order to spend more time with his family that included a three-year-old and newborn sons. He continued as an assistant with Catholic Central during his hiatus from head coaching.

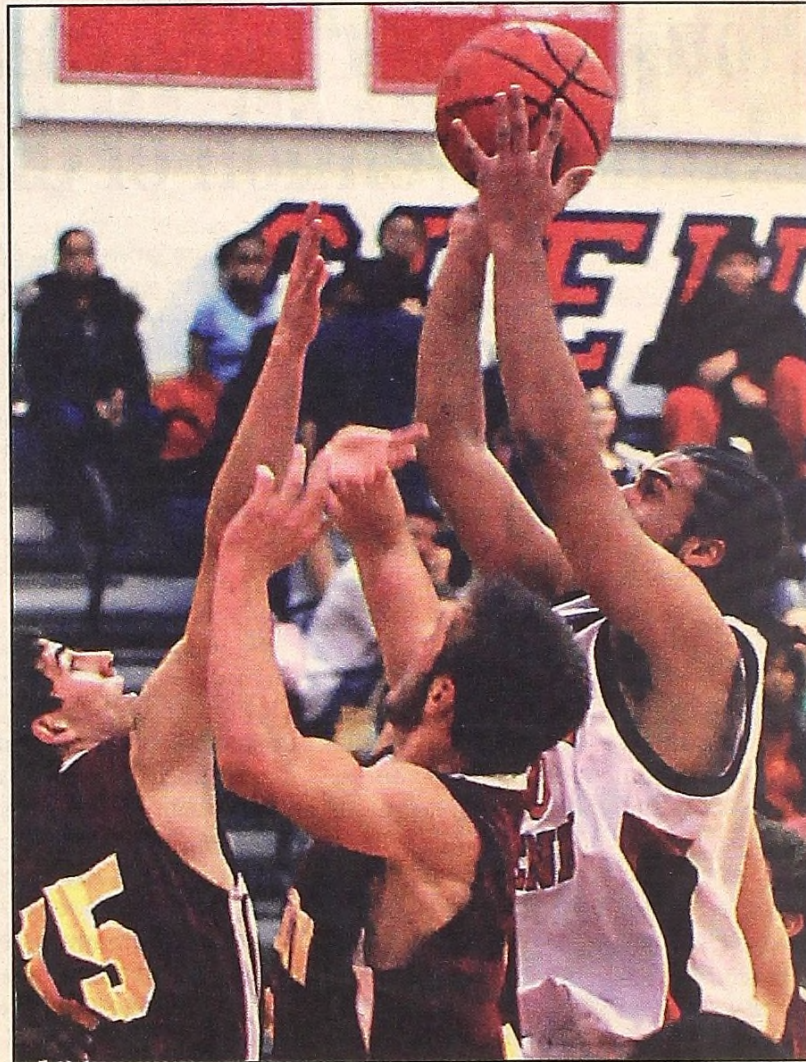
His children are now in school fulltime, offering him the chance to head coach again when the Glenn position opened up.

So far so good as the team is 1-1 against two tough opponents.

Against Riverview the Rockets carried a one-point lead into half-time. Glenn made some big plays in the second half, extending its lead by as many as 11 points, according to Young. Riverview tried to get back in it by fouling, but The Rockets were 5-for-6 down the stretch. Martin and Marken each made two from the line and Rob Jones sank one. The team was 10-14 throughout the game.

"That was a good win for us to start the season," Young said.

Early foul trouble led to the 66-



John Glenn senior Jackie Wilson takes a shot over Riverview's defense in last Tuesday's 63-52 Rocket victory. Wilson had eight points and eight rebounds in the season home opener. For Northville, Plymouth and Inkster basketball updates go to www.journalgroup.com. Photo by Ken Garner

52 loss to North Farmington.

With Novi this week and a grudge match against visiting

Wayne next week—7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21—it doesn't look to get any easier for Glenn.

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SPORTS

Canton falls to Monroe in opener

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The first game of the year is always the toughest.

Canton kept its season opener against host Monroe close, but the Trojans squeaked out a 49-44 victory last Tuesday.

Monroe snuck out to a 9-6 lead after one period of play. After that Canton's defense took over, holding the Trojans to just three points in the second. The Chiefs scored 11 to take a 17-12 lead into the locker room at the intermission.

Monroe's adjustments at the half were the difference. Canton turned over the ball 10 times in the round, giving Monroe ample opportunities to score. And they did.

The Trojans knocked down 16 in the frame to gain a four-point advantage. The fourth quarter was wide open. The two teams combined for 41 points as Monroe edged out Canton, 21-20, for the win.

"The first one is always tough because you kind of go in blind," said Canton Coach Charlie Paye. "We didn't shoot the ball very well and turned the ball over a lot. It was a

slow defensive battle to start and they did a good job. They pressed us and played some zone. I didn't expect them to play zone, but considering we weren't shooting real well it was a good move on their part."

Canton finished with 23 turnovers and only shot about 25 percent from the floor, according to Paye. On the bright side, the Chiefs converted 20 of 23 free throws.

Senior center and co-captain Ryan Waidmann and junior forward Neil Sharma led Canton in scoring with 13 each. Senior guard Ryan Langdon recorded five steals and Eric Zech had three.

"This was a good game for us," Paye said. "We were in the game and had chances to clinch it. The kids played hard, but the shooting just wasn't there."

Mike Wallace scored 13 points to lead Monroe. Audie Cole and Ramad Bruce each added 11.

Canton hosted Troy Athens on Tuesday but the results were unavailable at press time. The Chiefs head to South Lyon for a 7 p.m. tip off tonight and return home for a 7 p.m. match-up against Ann Arbor Pioneer on Tuesday.

High Velocity Sports to offer holiday school break camps

High Velocity Sports in Canton will offer an array of camps during the upcoming holiday school break.

The camps are designed to accommodate working parents and active children. They include All-sport, Craft, Basketball and Soccer.

At the All-sport camp, participants will play a multitude of sports including soccer, flag football, dodge ball, basketball, volleyball and others. The camp is offered in half-day and full-day options from Dec. 27-29, 2006 and Jan. 2-5, 2007. The half-day camp is from 9 a.m. to noon or 1-4 p.m. with a fee of \$25 per day. The full-day option runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and costs \$45 per day.

Participants of the Craft Camp will work on different projects each day from 9 a.m. to noon and is offered Dec. 27-29 and Jan.

2-5. The coast, which includes all supplies, is \$30 per day.

The three-day Basketball Camp will run from 9 a.m. to noon on Dec. 27-29 on High Velocity Sports' brand new, state-of-the-art hardwood basketball courts. The camp is designed to enhance dribbling, passing and shooting skills and will cost \$75 per child.

Soccer Camp will be available Jan. 2-5 with two options: one for 5-8 year olds from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and one for 9-12 year olds from noon-2:00 p.m. The cost for either camp is \$75 per child. Campers will work on ball handling, finishing and defending.

Craft, Basketball and Soccer campers may add All-Sport camp for the other half of the day for \$25 per day.

For more information on school break camps call (734) HV-SPORT or visit www.hvsport.com.

For sports updates visit
www.journalgroup.com.

Whalers move into second

The Plymouth Whalers moved into second place in the OHL West Division with a 7-1 victory at London on Thursday and a 5-3 home victory against the Sudbury Wolves on Friday. The Whalers' road to another perfect weekend was interrupted by a 2-1 shootout loss to the visiting Barrie Colts (left) on Saturday. Plymouth's Zack Shepley (28) battles Barrie's Richard Clune for the puck on Saturday. Whalers' goalie Michal Meuvirth (40) protects the goal. Shepley helps behind the net. The Whalers are now 19-10-1-1 and just two points behind division leaders Saginaw. Plymouth is on the road this weekend with games at Peterborough at 7 p.m. today, Oshawa at 7:35 on Friday and Brampton at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Photos by Ken Garner



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Computer business classes planned

More opportunities for business and computer savvy will now be available at the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD).

The college is now offering a revitalized computer information system and business information technology program, which will also continue into the fall semester. It will offer the skills and knowledge of technical and professional jobs within the information technology and business information technology fields using programming, analysis and software skills, along with customer service and interpersonal abilities, according to school officials.

The computer information and business information technology program is geared toward students with IT skills for programmers/ana-

While people can still get a degree in the field, we are also offering a two year-certification program.

Bonike Odegbami

lysts in government, insurance, manufacturing, service, sales, utilities and banking, as well as other business technology positions.

Bonike Odegbami, executive vice president of the western campus in Belleville, said educators found that the information technology industry was asking for certificates in certain areas of the field, which is why they introduced the certification program.

“While people can still get a degree in the field, we are also offering a two year-certification program,” she said. “For example, somebody who has a business information systems degree might want to receive a certificate in computer support as a web designer.”

Other certificates available include network administration, keyboarding, office support, computer program, data base management and more. The 2-year associate degree program can be as short as one semester or up to two years, officials said.

The computer information system and business information technology program will be offered at all five college campuses. For more information, contact the school at (734) 699-7008.



A job well done

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor recently honored Ofc. Carl Arnett for 25 years with the department. As Arnett was on his way to receive his awards—a plaque, along with a badge and a 1956 Ford police car model—he even managed to make a drunk-driving arrest across from city hall.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL HELD NOVEMBER 27, 2006, IN THE ROMULUS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tern Randolph Gear.

Present: John Barden, Ellen Craig-Bragg, LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, William Wadsworth.

Excused: Harry Crout.

Officials in Attendance: Alan R. Lambert, Mayor Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Crova, supported by Bragg to approve the agenda as presented.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes-Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-390**
2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Barden to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 13, 2006.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
3. No Action Taken.
- 06-391**
- 4A. Motion by Bragg, supported by Crova to adopt a resolution honoring the Romulus Lady Eagles Varsity Basketball Team with their 46-36 win for District Championship.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-392**
- 4B. Motion by Bragg, supported by Wadsworth to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Mario DeVita, beloved father of Maria Lambert, City of Romulus Community Development Director /DDA.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
4. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Barden to accept the Chairperson’s Report.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-393**
- 5A1. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution acknowledging Fred Junior Block for his many years of service to the City of Romulus.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-394**
- 5A2. Motion by Barden, supported by Crova to authorize payment of Romulus 2007 annual membership dues with the Michigan Municipal League in the amount of \$6,805.00.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-395**
- 5B. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to introduce Budget Amendment 06/07-16:

ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	BUDGET	AMENDMENT	BUDGET
<u>State Forfeiture</u>				
<u>Expense</u>				
268-3710-737.73-05	Operating Supplies	91,853	40,000	131,853
<u>Fund Balance</u>				
268-0000-390.00-00	Fund Balance	157,537	(40,000)	117,537
To further covert investigations.				

- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-396**
- 6A1. Motion by Crova, supported by Barden to approve second reading and final adoption of Budget Amendment 06-07-15, introduced at the meeting of November 13, 2006.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes -Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-397**
- 6A2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Bragg to adopt a resolution to approve the 2007/2008 Final Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project presented to City Council on November 6, 2006.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-398**
7. Motion by Bragg, supported by Burcroff to adopt a resolution honoring the Summit Academy Girls Varsity Basketball Team for their accomplishments during the 2006 past season for winning the Blue Division.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-399**
9. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Jessie Lee Morris.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
- 06-400**
11. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Bragg to authorize City Treasurer to disburse funds as listed in Warrant 06-22 in the grand total amount of One Million, Seven Hundred Ninety Three Thousand, Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$1,793,998.14).
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
12. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.
- Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Barden, Bragg, Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Wadsworth.
Nays - None.
Motion Carried Unanimously.
Eva W. Webb, Deputy Clerk City of Romulus, Michigan
- I, Eva Webb, Deputy Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 27, 2006.
- Eva W. Webb, Deputy Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2006

Supervisor King called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor King, Clerk Payne, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Clair, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr and Trustee Rochowiak. Absent and excused: None. Others in attendance: Planning and Economic Development Director Kelley, Public Safety Director Champagne, Chief Nicholai, Water and Sewer Director Duha, Captain Brooks, Captain Laurain, Executive Assistant Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-five (25).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to consider the 2006 Amended General Fund Budget and the 2007 Proposed General Fund Budget. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Treasurer Budd for an explanation. Treasurer Budd thanked the Directors and the Board for their efforts in preparing the 2006 Amended and 2007 Proposed General Fund Budgets. Treasurer Budd stated documents provided to the Board set forth line items for expenditures for each department and explanations of designated fund balance including the following: Balanced Sheet Modifications Statement, Salaried Employee Wage Schedule and Public Safety Expenditures Goals for 2006 and 2007. Treasurer Budd stated the 2006 General Fund Amended budget has been reduced from what was originally budgeted. The proposed expenditures for the 2006 Amended Budget are \$12,531,413 and the 2007 Proposed Budget expenditures are \$13,473,289. The Budgets before the Board are balanced as required by law. The Public Safety Department is the largest department which is comprised of Police, Fire and Dispatch Departments with the proposed annual budget of \$6.8 million. The Public Safety Department is comprised of a Director of Public Safety, two Captains, two Lieutenants, seven Sergeants, twenty-four Officers, nine Dispatchers, a Secretary, two Account Clerks, an IT Coordinator, a Maintenance Worker, a Fire Chief, a Fire Inspector and thirty-two Fire Fighters. In addition, the General Fund supports fifty-four other full-time staff including the Supervisor's Office, Clerk's Office, Treasurer's Office, Building and Planning, Building and Grounds, Parks and Recreation, Senior's and Museum. There are also part-time and seasonal employees. The Water and Sewer Budget will be discussed later and is comprised of fourteen employees. Also, later the Board will be reviewing the Capital Improvement Plan which is financed through the General Fund and some of those proposed expenditures include a new DPW truck, resurfacing the township parking lot, Wayne County Grant monies will be used to do renovations at Riggs Park, a Haggerty Subdivision Play structure, ADA improvements, Van Buren Park Stage renovations and a new entrance to Van Buren Park. The 2006 expenditures include restrooms in Van Buren Park and French Landing Dam Park. The other Departments expenditures are adopted as a budget total. The revenue sources include property taxes, Public Safety revenues, registrations and licenses, permit fees, park fees and State Shared Revenue. She further stated the following transfers: \$2,950,000 from the Landfill Fund and \$593,094 from the Unreserved Fund Balance for the 2007 proposed budget. Treasurer Budd requested that items A-F outlined in her memo dated November 22, 2006 be a part of the motion for the budget approval.

Supervisor King stated the 2006 Amended Budget is down roughly one half million dollars. The proposed 2007 General Fund Budget reflects about an seven and one half percent increase over the amended 2006 General Fund Budget and a three percent increase over the original 2006 General Fund Budget. Two significant items are State Shared Revenues are down to fourteen percent of the Revenues and four million dollars of Revenues are transfers from the Landfill Fund and Designated and Undesignated Reserve Funds. Also, Revenues are down in Developmental Services for permit fees. Supervisor King further stated the budget is an ongoing process that begins in June, with Treasurer Budd notifying all Department Directors to start compiling necessary documents for amendments to the current year budget and to prepare for the next fiscal year budget that begins in January. There are Designated Fund balances for funding Senior Bequest reserves, insurance reserves, French Landing Dam, Fire Department equipment, computer networking, compensated absences and land purchases. Supervisor King also stated wage increases for salaried employees are set at two and three quarter percent for 2007. Lastly, Supervisor King highlighted the attachments as noted in Treasurers Budd memo as follows: A) Revenues in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance; B) Fiscal year line items, which are not expensed, with the exception of specified reserve line items, shall revert to net income; C) Approval of appendices noted above as part of the General Fund Budget; D) Revenue as "Tax Administrative Fee" is to continue as in past practice. The allocated millage for township operations is 9.4378, which represents .9144 mill for Township Operations, 2.9676 mills for Public Safety and 5.5558 mills for Water/Sewer Debt; E) Adoption by departmental total; and F) December 5, 2006, approval supersedes prior resolutions.

There were no comments or questions from the Board.

Comments or questions from the audience. A resident inquired what would the township do if there were no Landfill Fund. Supervisor King stated there are two options the township could look at an increase in millage for certain items such as Recreation, Library, or General Operating or look at cutting or changing services. The resident inquired about the reduction in building revenues and wondered if the township has considered downsizing the department? Supervisor King stated this was looked at during the Budget Preparation Meetings and at this time there is enough work for the staff to do in the Developmental Services Department. Lastly, the resident inquired about the Belle Harbour/Lake Crest Estates Special Assessment District (SAD) process regarding the project status of work done, payments made and collection of payment via the tax bill. Supervisor King and Treasurer Budd reviewed the SAD process and Director Kelley reviewed the status of project. In addition, Director Kelley invited the resident to come in to the office for additional information and review of documents.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Clair seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Jahr moved, Payne seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment on the 2006 Amended Special Revenue Fund Budgets and the 2007 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and stated the following are the Special Revenue Funds: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA), Capital Improvement Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, State Forfeiture Fund, Landfill Fund, Belleville Area Museum, E-911 Service Fund, Cable Fund, Bemis Road SAD, Lohr Road SAD, Belle Harbour/Lake Crest SAD and Venetian/Dewitt SAD. Treasurer Budd stated budgets are all balanced and the title of the fund is what the fund is used for. There are four SAD for roads and the preliminary number of \$1.7 million has been used for the Belle/Harbour Lake Crest SAD. Each SAD state the year the SAD started and the number of years the SAD is spread over. Supervisor King stated the CDBG portion will be discussed under Public Hearing Number three. The DDA is in a line item format with designations for the DDA's designated fund balance for the following: Belleville Road Streetscape, Public Safety, Municipal Complex and reserve to pay the bonds the DDA has encumbered. The LDFA is specifically to repay the Visteon site infrastructure improvements bonds. Capital Improvements include the new Fire Station Number One. The Federal and State Forfeiture Funds are governed by Federal and State laws and are used for Public Safety purposes. The E-911 Service Fund is restricted for use of Public Safety Emergency Dispatch Service. The Landfill Fund Revenues from gate yard fees for the proposed 2007 General Fund is \$2,950,000 will be transferred into the General Fund for general operations. In addition, there is a commitment to ongoing royalties that is part of the Host Agreement with Waste Management designated on an annual basis of \$200,000 for Public Safety, \$50,000 for Environmental and \$100,000 for Parks and Recreation. The proposed Landfill Fund Balance for Amended 2006 is approximately \$8.7 million and in the Proposed 2007 approximately \$7.7 million. Supervisor King stated the Belleville Area Museum is a joint venture with the City of Belleville and in the Proposed 2007 Budget there is an increase of \$5,000 from both municipalities. The Cable Fund was a separate fund which will be rolled back into the General Fund in 2007. The remaining are SAD road improvement projects. Finally, revenues in excess of those noted shall be dedicated to fund balance and items not expensed shall revert to net income.

There were no comments from the Board or the audience.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Budd seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Clair moved, Payne seconded to open the public hearing to receive public comment and discuss possible projects for the fiscal year 2007-2008 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated this is the second of two public hearings regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The three national objectives for projects are: to benefit low/moderate income persons, prevent or eliminate slum and/or blight and to meet urgent community needs. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) objectives of the CDBG program are for the development of viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. Since the public hearing held at the October 17, 2006 Board meeting has meet with Department Directors and one community member regarding allocations for 2007-2008 CDBG. The request needs to be submitted to Wayne County by December 21, 2006. The funding level is the same as last year at \$133,000. The proposed projects are in three general categories with funding percentages as follows: public services twenty percent, bricks and mortar seventy percent and planning and administration each at five percent. Past projects are ADA compliant access designs in public facilities, fire equipment, various Senior Citizen programs, planning and design of community areas, building demolition, housing rehabilitation and administrative support for the program. The proposed projects for 2007-2008 are as follows: Public Services total is \$25,270 for senior services and youth services through the Recreation Department. Bricks and Mortar total is \$94,430 for ADA Van Buren Park beach improvement, minor repairs to Senior Services kitchen area and additional ADA improvements to the Township parks. Also, reserving any balance of this line item to be combined with future years program budget for a larger project. Planning and Administration total is \$13,300.

Clerk Payne stated these are some of the last federal dollars that come back to the local community. Trustee Jahr stated Reverend Anderson addressed the Board during the first public hearing for an after school youth center have you had discussions with her. Director Kelley stated he has met with Reverend Anderson and due to the limited amount of CDBG funding no monies have been allocated at this time.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Hart seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on special use approval to operate a licensed day care center at 970 Savage Road. Carried.

Supervisor King opened the public hearing and went to Director Kelley for an explanation. Director Kelley stated Mr. and Mrs. Ken Thornell are requesting special use approval to operate a child day care center at 970 Savage Road. The property was previously used as church and is a single building approximately 5,000 square feet with an asphalt driveway and parking lot, and a sign in the front yard. The proposed child day care facility requires special use approval by the Board of Trustees as regulated in the Township Zoning Ordinance. The applicant did seek relief from the Zoning Ordinance from the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) to permit crossing an internal roadway for access to the playground area and the BZA denied the relief citing there were other options. The applicant agreed and has made the appropriate changes to the site plan. There are no changes to the size of the building and improvements to building are those regulated by the Township's Building Code and the Child Day Care Licensing Division of the Michigan Department of Human Services. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the special use request and several comments and concerns relative to the proposed change in use were dis

Township OK's improvement plan

Andrea Kling
Staff Writer

Van Buren Township officials have approved their newest capital improvements plan, which could bring about several park, planning and building developments.

Township Supervisor Cindy King said it's a planning tool they hope to continue.

"We kicked this off last year so some are new and some things we hope to continue," she said. "I believe we need this tool to improve service and maintain existing infrastructure. We are trying to plan for the future."

The capital improvements plan is a financial tool to convey future capital needs and address ongoing infrastructure maintenance to preserve existing assets.

Projects in the 2006-2011 plan may be amended, added to or deleted as future needs change or as finances may dictate. As projects move closer to fruition, they must be approved in compliance with established purchasing policies, according to officials.

"These are things that may or may not come to completion, but certainly would be nice to have,"

said King.

All projects are dependent upon available funds. Qualifying projects are those whose life exceeds three or more years and cost \$25,000 or more. Fund sources could be from the general fund, enterprise funds, dedicated millage revenue, grants, bonds and other funding sources, officials said.

Ideas include: Fire station construction and building needs, an expansion of the public safety facility, the Quirk and Tyler roads land purchase, the Riggs Homestead renovation, French Landing Dam work, playground equipment, greenways, building and grounds projects, master plan updates and water and sewer work.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said while he thinks the capital improvements plan is a good idea he does have concerns.

"The advantage of planning in the last year is we can see we aren't being asked to adopt a project in the vacuum," Jahr said. "The entire staff thought about it and prioritized. I'm not in favor of each and every project though, particularly with the tightening of the economy"

The capital improvements plan will be revised on an annual basis. Projects may also be modified and costs may be adjusted, too.

These are things that may or may not come to completion, but certainly would be nice to have.

Cindy King

Teen charged in crash

Andrea Kling
Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Ypsilanti teen was charged with felony murder, fleeing and eluding police and driving with a suspended license after he stole a vehicle, crashed it and killed a passenger in Van Buren Township.

Denareo Yarborough was arraigned last Tuesday at the 34th District Court in Romulus for the incident that killed 19-year-old Don Wells of Ypsilanti. Wells, a friend of Yarborough's, was riding in the front seat of the stolen 2005 Dodge Durango.

According to Jerry Champagne, director of public safety for Van Buren Township, the incident took place at about 10:49 p.m. on Dec. 1. Township police were called to the Meijer store on Belleville Road after four men went into the store, took several bottles of liquor—

about \$145 total—and fled the area in the Dodge Durango.

Police from Van Buren and other jurisdictions followed the car, which had been reported stolen out of Pittsfield Township. They tried to stop it near Rawsonville Road and I-94—about 4 miles from the scene—but the car failed to stop and fled at high speed westbound to Grove Road, police said.

The driver then lost control of the vehicle, which caused it to crash and roll over several times, according to police reports.

Champagne said two of the four suspects fled on foot. One of the suspects—Yarborough—was located and arrested by Washtenaw County Sheriff's Deputies. Wells was critically injured from the crash and transported to an area hospital, but was pronounced dead upon arrival.

Continued from page 11

cussed as follows: supervision of the planned outdoor activities for the children, hours of operation, fencing, snow removal and stockpiling, access to the play area by the public, site lighting, traffic impacts, stormwater drainage, school bus drop off and pickup and liability to neighboring properties. The Use Statement on page two of the site plan under Child Care Item are as follows: Days and hours of operation, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; The number of children allowed under the State License; The plan for playground supervision; A description of the latch key children program; There are additional notes that state the time that the sign lighting will be turned on and off; Plowed snow will not be piled in such a way to interfere with or impact neighboring properties. Supervisor King stated there have been considerable deliberations at the Planning Commission level and there have been revisions to the site plan to address concerns that were expressed. Further, there is a need for daycare in the community.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing.

Hart moved, Payne seconded to close the public hearing. Carried.

MINUTES: Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the Work Study Session Minutes of November 13, 2006 as presented. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Clair seconded to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2006 as presented. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Service awards were given to the following employees Mario Pinard and Jeffrey Fondaw for 20 years of service, Pam Fleming, David McNally, Roy Schroeder and Charles Bazy for 15 years of service, Jennifer Price, David Tozer, James Ferris, Angela Hayes, Robert Martin and Christopher Hayes for 10 years of service and Christopher Valinski, Jennifer Parker, Bryce Kelley and John Henderson for 5 years of service.

Van Buren Township is in receipt of a check in the amount of \$56,627 from the Township's General Liability Insurance carrier the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. The distribution was due to these contributing factors: the longevity with MMRMA, the loss history with the community, and management practices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Payne moved, Hart seconded to approve the 2006 Amended General Fund Budget and the 2007 Proposed General Fund Budget, as outlined in Treasurer Budd's memo dated November 22, 2006, noting items A through F inclusive. Carried.

Budd moved, Clair seconded to approve the 2006 Amended Special Revenue Fund Budgets and the 2007 Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budgets [CDBG, DDA, LDFA, Capital Improvement Fund, Federal Forfeiture Fund, State Forfeiture Fund, Landfill Fund, Belleville Area Museum, 911 Service Fund, Cable Fund, Bemis Road SAD, Lohr Road SAD, Belle Harbour/Lake Crest SAD and Venetian/Dewitt SAD], as outlined in Treasurer Budd's memo dated November 22, 2006, noting items A and B inclusive. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to approve the 2006 Amended Water & Sewer Fund Budget and the 2007 Proposed Water & Sewer Fund Budget. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-38 the Fee Schedule with an effective date of January 1, 2007. Carried.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to adopt Resolution 2006-39 the 2006-2011 Capital Improvements Plan. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the proposed activities for Community

Development Block Grant funding for the fiscal year 2007 – 2008. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to approve the [revised] Salaried Employees Benefit Manual effective January 1, 2007. Carried.

Rochowiak moved, Jahr seconded to approve the special use approval to operate a licensed day care center at 970 Savage Road. Carried.

Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the split and combination of parcels V125-83-094-01-0203-301, V125-83-094-01-0206-301, V125-83-094-01-0206-302, V125-83-094-01-0206-303 and V125-83-094-01-0206-304, parts of Lots 203, 204 and 205 Supervisor's Van Buren Plat Number 6 in accordance with the Parcel Division Board memorandum specifically noting items one through seven. Carried.

Jahr moved, Payne seconded to approve the reappointments of Cheryl Sherman, Helen Foster and Laurie Watkins to the Board of Zoning Appeals with terms to expire December 1, 2009. Carried.

Payne moved, Budd seconded to approve the reappointments of Tom Kryza and Angela Netto and to approve the appointment of Juanita Jensen to the Board of Review with terms to expire December 31, 2008. Carried.

Clair moved, Hart seconded to approve the letter of support by Van Buren Township for the TURBO (Transforming Underdeveloped Residential and Business Opportunities) program to relocate a manufacturing business to 8979 Samuel Barton Drive [parcel ID V125-83-047-99-0003-707] and to authorize the Township Supervisor to execute the letter. Carried.

VOUCHER LIST: Jahr moved, Rochowiak seconded to approve the December 5, 2006 voucher list as amended. Carried.

REPORTS: Supervisor King ordered the October 2006 Budgetary Report received and filed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A brunch with Santa on Sunday, December 17th at 11:00 a.m. in the Van Buren Township Dining Room. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 699.8921.

Township Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday and on Monday, January 1st and Tuesday, January 2nd for the New Year Holiday.

On Friday, December 15th the Belleville Community Band will hold a Christmas Concert at the First United Methodist Church in Belleville at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday, December 10th the Belleville Community Choir will hold a Christmas Concert at the First United Methodist Church in Belleville at 7:00 p.m.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): A resident commented on the cable broadcast channel and made several suggestions for improvements.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Payne seconded to adjourn at 10:16 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joannie D. Payne, CMC
Township Clerk

Cindy C. King
Township Supervisor

Publish: December 14, 2006

CLASSIFIED

01. Obituaries
02. In Memoriam
03. Cards of Thanks
04. Monuments
 & Cemetery Plots
05. Personals/Announcements
06. Legal Notices
07. Attorneys
08. Entertainment
09. Lost & Found
10. Coming Events
30. Help Wanted
31. Help Wanted Sales
32. Help Wanted Drivers
33. Child Care
34. Specialized Services
35. Situations Wanted
40. Business Opportunity
42. Health and Fitness
43. Money to Loan
44. Music/Art Lessons
45. Adult Care
46. Private Schools/Instruction
47. Riding/Horses/Stables
50. Pets & Supplies
54. Rummage Sales
55. Estate Sales
56. Flea Markets
57. Antiques
58. Garage and Yard Sales
59. Auctions
60. Misc. Sales
61. Misc. Items
62. Building Supplies
63. Business and Office Equipment
64. Lawn & Garden Supplies
65. Tree Service
66. Landscape / Nurseries
67. Garden Plant / Supplies
68. Garden / Produce
70. Masonry / Brickwork
72. Machinery Tools
73. Musical Merchandise
74. Sporting Goods
75. Boats / Accessories
76. Remodeling & Renovations
77. Recreation Vehicles
78. Hunting / Fishing
82. Wanted to Buy
87. Room for Rent
88. Duplexes for Rent
89. Apartments for Rent
90. Condos/Townhouses for Rent
92. Business Places for Rent
93. Banquet Halls
94. Farm Land for Rent
95. Real Estate
96. Houses for Rent
97. Cottages for Rent
98. Mobile Homes for Rent
99. Flats for Rent
100. Will Share
101. Wanted to Rent
102. Storage
103. Business Property for Sale
104. Farms & Acreage for Sale
105. Mobile Homes for Sale
106. Houses for Sale
107. Condos/Townhouses for Sale
108. Lake and Resort
109. Income Property
110. Lots for Sale
111. Out of State Property
112. Commercial Lease
113. Real Estate Wanted
114. Auto Accessories
115. Autos for Sale
116. Antique & Classic Cars
117. Trucks & Vans for Sale
118. Freebies
119. Auto Repairs
120. Motorcycles
121. Autos Wanted

30. Help Wanted

Personal Assistant/Secretary needed on a part time basis (flexible hours). Job duties include helping to plan meetings, typing letters plus other misc. duties. Bookkeeping experience and the ability to work without direct supervision is required. Driving may be required for some duties (mileage will be paid).

Email resume to: Saadeh@eresearchanaylsis.com

Clerical help wanted for home office in Canton 20 hrs. per week \$8.00/hr. Fax resume to: 734-331-2661

DETENTION OFFICER: Phoenix, Arizona. Maricopa County Sheriffs' Office. \$14.99/hr. Excellent benefits. No experience necessary. Contact 602-307-5245, 1-877-352-6276, or www.mcso.org. 400 vacancies, including civilian positions.

DRIVER - ASAP 36-43cpm/\$1.20pm + Sign On Bonus, \$0 Lease NEW Trucks, CDL-A + 3 mos OTR 800-635-8669

DRIVER: DONT JUST START YOUR CAREER, start it right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition reimbursement! CRST 800-553-2778.

DRIVER - REGIONAL RUNS, Home Weekly or: Temp Control, Team Xpedited (5K sign-on bonus), Dedicated (guaranteed miles). Solos, Teams, CDL-A Grads, L/P, O/Os. Covenant Transport (866) 684-2519. EOE.

OTR DRIVERS DESERVE MORE pay and more hometime! \$.41/mi. - 1 year experience. More experience makes more! Home most weekends! Run close to home! Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953 heartlandexpress.com

Call 734-467-1900 to place your classified ad.

34. Specialized Services

Need help looking for someone in your family tree? Want to know where great-grandpa was born? Local genealogy service available at very reasonable rates. Call 734-260-1069 for more info.

WEIGHT LOSS

Caring, compassionate & personalized weight loss programs
Call Diet Center of Canton for your free consultation
734-414-9200

40. Business Opportunity

Earn Extra Money Full / Part Time Home Based Business
Call: 734-890-1250

ALL CASH CANDY ROUTE. Do you earn up to \$800/day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and Candy. All for \$9,995. Call 1-888-744-4651.

42. Health and Fitness

NEED MEDICAL SUPPLIES??? Free medical supplies and equipment for your use. Walkers, canes, wheel-chairs, crutches, to name just a few.

DO YOU HAVE MEDICAL SUPPLIES THAT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH??? Donate your supplies outright to the "Medical Supply Sharing Ministry."

Whether you need supplies, or have supplies to donate, or have questions about the program, call Cathy at 734-699-5565

50. Pets & Supplies



Puppies For Sale Miniature Pincher Puppies Just in time for Christmas 3 Males-Black & Tan Tails clipped and first shots! Call 313-563-7436

59. Auctions

DEARBORN HEIGHTS POLICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Dec. 20, 2006 at 1:00 PM. at: Dalton Towing, 27218 Currier, Dearborn Heights, MI 48125 (313-299-9727):

- 1995 Saturn 4DR
1G8ZF5284S223821
1998 Ford 2DR
3FAKP1135WR205721
2002 Ford 4DR
1FAFP33P62W249411
1994 Ford 2DR
1FARP1289RW213802
1984 BMW 4DR
WBAFF8408E9475512
1993 Ford 2DR
1FAPP31X8PK195504
1997 Ford 4DR
1FALP52U3VG303073
1987 Mercury 2DR
1MEBM60F0HH668123
1982 Cadillac 2DR
1G6AB478XC9141534
1985 Buick 2DR
1G4GM4717FP415384
1991 Ford PU
1FTDF15N7MNA97944
1993 Ford 2DR
1FAPP11J2PW122024
1994 Plymouth SW
2P4GH4534RR740585
1995 Plymouth 4DR
1P3ES27C4SD336855
1990 Buick 4DR
3G4AL54N1LS608665
1994 Dodge 2DR
1B3AP24D8RN241945
1996 Ford SW
2FMDA5146TBA32575
1996 Mazda 4DR
1YVGE22C3T5514915
1993 Ford SW
1FMCA11U7PZA02895
1995 Mercedes Benz 4DR
WDBEA34E2SC154235
1995 Ford 4DR
1FALP14J9SW349875
1987 Ford PU
1FTCR15T9HPB32026
1994 Plymouth 2DR
1P3AP64KXRN233026
1994 Chrysler 4DR
2C3ED56FORH207746
1999 Dodge 2DR
3BES42Y2XT583776
1994 Pontiac 4DR
1G2HX52L8R4236246
1987 Jeep PU
1JTHS641OHT081156
2000 Pontiac 4DR
1G2NE52T9YM728906
1988 Honda 2DR
1HGCA6162JA050637
1996 Ford 2DR
1FASP11J4TW125687
1998 Chevrolet SW
1G8DM19WB156717
1989 Buick 4DR
1G4HP54C9KH400378
2003 Dodge 4DR
2B3HD46R03H543838
1992 Pontiac 2DR
1G2JC14H9N7589358
1994 Saab 4DR
YS3DM55V3R2029638
1986 Buick 4DR
1G4AH19X0GD425039
1995 Saturn 4DR
1G8ZH5283SZ378029
1997 Ford 4DR
1FALP10PXVW274179
1988 Chevrolet PU
1HGCBS14E8J2169560
1989 GMC SW
1GDDM15ZXKB517800

- 1997 Chevrolet 2DR
1G1JF12T3V7144200
1994 Ford 4DR
2FALP71WXR197820
1996 Chevrolet PU
1GCCS14WT8140204
1992 Honda 4DR
1HGCB7675NA177778
1994 Chevrolet 4DR
1G1BL52PXRR190074
1990 GMC PU
2GTFC29K0L1555105
1997 Mercury 4DR
1MELM53S7VG623107
1998 Oldsmobile 4DR
1G3WH52K8WF323197
1987 Audi 4DR
WAUFC0441HN090253
1999 Chevrolet SW
1GCGG29R1X1103312
1997 Chrysler CV
3C3EL45H3VT623355
1997 Geo CV
2CNBJ1866V6907513
1995 Chevrolet SW
1GBEG25K4SF187545
1990 Ford 2DR
1FAPP6045LH209648
1998 Ford SW
2FMDA5147WBB46766
1985 Merkur 2DR
WF1BP8OW2FM638820
1993 Ford 2DR
1FAPP31X7PK229822
1999 Pontiac 4DR
1G2JB5247X7518916

61. Misc. Items

NEW Queen Size Orthopedic Pillow Top Mattress and Box Set
Brand New in plastic with full manufacturer warranty. Can deliver. ONLY \$95.00 (734) 326-2744

KING Size Orthopedic Mattress and Split Box Set
Brand "NEW" in plastic with full factory warranty. Delivery Available. Sacrifice \$170.00 (734) 721-3799

SOFA & LOVESEAT
Micro-Fiber/Beige
Life-Time warranty on frame and fabric warranty. NEW in crate. Delivery Available. Sacrifice for ONLY \$495.00 (734) 637-2012

34. Specialized Services

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FOOD

'Mocktail' Mixer

Local woman wins annual alcohol-free drink contest

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

It's been more than 14 years since Sue Robertson lost her 14-year-old brother who was struck and killed by a drunk driver.

Last Friday, she joined Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance (SEMCA) at Westland Shopping Center

a reminder to provide an alcohol-free alternative at their holiday functions.

"We try to do something every year," said Jack O'Reilly, executive director of SEMCA. "Celebrations during this time are appropriate, but it's important individuals are aware of the consequences that result from too much alcohol."

Their goal, he said, isn't that of a teetotaler. Instead, he simply asked that revelers include other drink options, that

alcohol—if desired—be used in moderation, and that more people accept responsibility for ensuring that those who chose to drink alcohol do not end up behind the wheel of a car, whether that means finding them a safe way home or allowing them to spend the night.

Numerous supporters, including Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans and

Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli, stopped by in support of the event.

Although the message is far from new, the general consensus was that it needed to be spread.

"If it's not put in your face regularly, people forget about it," said Evans.

Things seem to be on an upswing. Evans said that for the past 3 years, no fatal crashes have occurred in Wayne County between Christmas and New Year's.

The payoff, O'Reilly said, would mean

more than safer streets, though.

"People forget that children observe what parents and adults around them are

The Holiday Mocktail Mixer allowed residents the opportunity to show off non-alcoholic beverage recipes sure to tempt taste buds this holiday season.

Judges ultimately selected Mardi Gras Punch, submitted by mall employee Cecilia Nesbitt, as the best of the five entries.

To make Mardi Gras punch, individuals will need a 6-ounce can of frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed), a 6-ounce can of frozen lemonade concentrate (thawed), 1 quart chilled apple juice, 2 quarts chilled ginger ale, and 1 quart each of raspberry, orange, lime and lemon sherbet. Stir the concentrates and the apple juice in a large bowl and then stir in the ginger ale. As the finishing touch, scoop sherbet into balls and spoon into the punch.

Nesbitt won a \$75 gift certificate to NML Laser Design, \$50 gift certificate to Sears, \$25 to JC Penny, and an A&W meal card for her submission, all of which were donated by the companies.

The runner up was the Cranberry-Almond Punch recipe submitted by Detroit resident Tyrnza Wiley. To make, hosts need a can of jellied cranberry sauce, 2 1/4 cups of water, half a cup of lemon juice, 3/4 of a cup of orange juice, 1 teaspoon of almond extract, and 1 cup of chilled ginger ale.

First, use a fork to crush the cranberry jelly. Hand beat smooth with a whisk, then combine and stir in the water, lemon juice, orange juice and almond extract. Chill the mixture until needed and stir in the ginger ale just prior to serving. For best results, use a blender prior to adding the ginger ale. Finally, garnish glasses with lemon slices and mint.

Wiley received \$50 gift certificate to NML Laser Design, \$25 gift certificate to JC Penny and an A&W meal card for her entry.

doing," he said. "We don't want to send a message to our children that 'social' means 'drinking'."

Paul Motz, director of the Westland Youth Assistance program, agreed.

"Kids pick up on patterns of what is acceptable," he said.

He added that children who start drinking alcohol at an early age tend to experience more problems as they grow up.

Since alcohol is a part of so many holiday functions, Cicirelli asked that residents abide by one simple rule.

"If you're going to drink, drink responsibly," she said.

For more information, contact MADD at www.madd.org or call (313) 881-8181. Or, contact SEMCA at www.semcaprevention.org. Victim assistance is available 24 hours a day by calling (877) MADD-HELP.



Dignitaries from throughout Wayne County, including Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans, lined up for their opportunity stress the importance of alcohol awareness during the holidays and every day. Photo by Meghan Chatham

to promote non-alcoholic holiday drinks in the hopes, she said, of sparing another family her pain.

"His (her brother's) life was cut short by a guy who thought he could get home safely—and didn't," said Robertson.

The ironic part, she said, was that the driver who struck her brother knew he was drunk and opted to take the shortcut home in an effort to avoid police or hitting anyone.

Sponsored by SEMCA and MADD, the Holiday Mocktail Mixer offered shoppers judge a non-alcoholic beverage contest and served as



After the ceremony, curious visitors headed from punchbowl to punchbowl in search of their favorite new recipe. Westland Mayor Sandra Cicirelli donned one of the deep green aprons to help dole out non-alcoholic beverages to thirsty onlookers. Photo by Meghan Chatham.



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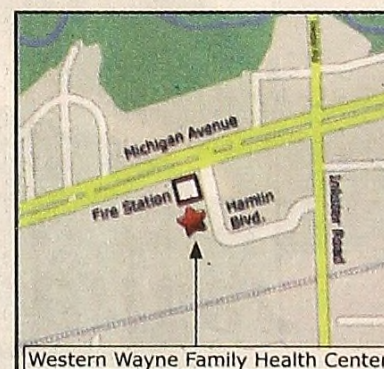
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